

# **The Divine Tapestry**

## **PART 79**

Jeremiah 2:12-13

### **“Broken Cisterns & Backslidden Brethren”**

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“Corruption and decay marked every phase of national life in Jeremiah’s day. True, God had raised up Josiah, a godly king who did his best to stem the tide of wickedness, but it was all in vain. The long and filthy reign of Manasseh had wrought incalculable harm to Judah. The religious apostasy had gone on too long; the moral rot had become too deeply entrenched. Not even Josiah’s zealous reforms could do any more than touch the surface of things. When he met an untimely death on the battlefield, all hope of genuine revival died with him.

It was in the thirteenth year of Josiah that the boy-preacher, Jeremiah, was called to the ministry. The dreaded Assyrian Empire was in the last days of its power, and its sun was soon to set. On the horizon the Medes and the Babylonians were discussing how best to carve up the Assyrian Empire. In the south the Egyptians were putting on a flashy show of power. It impressed many in Judah, but it did not impress Spirit-taught Jeremiah. Such were the times of Jeremiah. Global battles

loomed on the horizon. Times were changing, and Judah was cursed with a succession of weak kings and lying prophets.

Then, suddenly, God broke into the life of a young man named Jeremiah. His father was Hilkiyah, a priest of Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. Jeremiah heard a voice from heaven: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations' – not just to Judah, but to the world (Jeremiah 1:5 RSV). What Jeremiah had to say was not only directed to his contemporaries and his countrymen. It was directed to other nations as well. Indeed, his voice echoes its warnings in our own nation's ears, still vibrant and true, despite the passing of thousands of years." ~ *Exploring People of the Old Testament Volume Three*, John Phillips, pp. 145-146

## JEREMIAH'S TIMES

- Jeremiah was called to be a **witness** to a nation in the twilight of its existence.
  - The nation of Israel was in **trouble**.
  - Before he was born, God **loved**, anointed and **appointed** Jeremiah to be His prophet.
  - Jeremiah would be a prophet to the **nations** because Israel would be broken, **shattered** and scattered.

## A SHOCKING STORY

- With great emotion, God cries out: “Be astonished, bristle with **terror**; this news will cause you to **dry up** and **wither** away.”
- Note: In telling the “heavens” how to respond, He is telling us His emotional **state of mind**.

## TWO EVILS

### WHY WAS GOD SO APPALLED?

1. God’s bride had **abandoned** Him.
  - Living waters = Sweet; clean; **refreshing**; **abundant**
  - Flashback: Remember when we were first married...

2. God's people stubbornly chose to chip away at a life that would leave them dry, **discouraged** or dead.

➤ Cisterns = Rock tanks, carved into the ground and coated with lime. They were dependant on **runoff** from a roof, street or stable!

➤ You choose a cistern over a living well only if:

✓ You are **lazy**.



✓ You are **hiding**.



✓ You are chasing a **mirage**.



**QUESTION**

**Are You Dry?**

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